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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Troops in Sliven

PLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.) Oct 1953

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1. The infantry barracks is at the eastern edge of the town of Sliven. East of the barracks is a troop exercise area, used daily by the Sliven troops. The barracks can take 650 to 700 men at the most. It consists of a command building, two quarters buildings, and several stables and storehouses.
2. It is now occupied by a Bulgarian infantry battalion, having three rifle companies, a heavy machine gun company, an AT platoon with four guns, and a mortar platoon with six 82 mm mortars. There is no motor transport.
3. The artillery barracks is at the western edge of the town and can take a section at most. It has a command building, 20 by 80 m, which also serves as a quarters, two-storied; a one-story quarters, a magazine, a kitchen and stables, all one-story.
4. The barracks is now occupied by a horse-drawn artillery section with the APO No. 2311. It has a couple of passenger cars and the quartermaster unit has four or five trucks. The commander is Capt. (fnu) Nelkieff, about 40 years old. There is a staff, 46 to 48 men; a quartermaster unit, 50 to 53 men; a staff battery, 34 to 35 men; and three batteries, each of 90 to 95 men, with 80 or 85 rifles, five or six Soviet machine-pistols, five to seven pistols, two light machine guns and four 76.2 mm guns to each battery. Commander of the 1st Battery is Lt. Alexander Rodjanoff, 24 years old, with a small beard; commander of the 2nd Battery is Lt (fnu) Solkoff, about 25 years old, a small man.
5. Since early in 1952 the artillery section has been holding joint exercises with the infantry battalion. Artillerymen are required to take infantry training. Morale is poor.

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